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A NARRATIVE Of the Proceedings AT THE Sessions-house In the *Old-Bailey*, *April* 21, 1680.

The Number of persons Condemned for High-Treason and other Crimes.

IT would be both too tedious, and to little purpose, to publish every particular Tryal and the Circumstances of all ill Acts which were here examined, and the Actors thereof brought to Justice; we shall onely speak of the most considerable, amongst which we must account.

The business of Mr. *Harrison*, Indicted for the Murder of one Mr. *Jacob*: they lived at *Westminster*, and were both Sword-men: the party killed having a suspition of his Wife, had several times had quarrels with him about it, and fore-warned him from keeping her company; but notwithstanding, understood one day that they were together, and was so enraged, that the Prisoner thought fit to make his escape, as fast as he could backwards, to avoid his fury, who came upon him with his Sword, and made several passes at him, so that the Prisoner was obliged to draw his own Sword, which he used so unhappily, that Mr. *Jacob* was kill'd. Upon a long discussion of the whole Circumstances, Mrs. *Jacob* being an Evidence against him, he was found guilty of Manslaughter.

A bruitish fellow, said to belong to *Bridewell*, was found guilty by the Jury for *Middlesex*, for a barbarous Rape, committed on a Child not above seven years old, and very small of growth for that age; he inticed her into the House where he and his Mother dwelt, by giving her an Apple, and there began to practise his filthiness, which he pursued so far, that the Child some few days after, complaining to its Mother, who when she came to search, found her most lamentably abused: several Women, and two Chyrurgeons gave Evidence against him, making out the Crime as far as the Law requires, and the Child from the very first, and ever constantly charged him with it, and that no body else had medled with her. 'Twas proved that he had a *Gonorrhea*, or the foul disease, when he did this villany, and thereby endangered the Childs life, as well with that Contagion, as by the violence, so that he was justly found guilty.

Another was profecuted for a Rape, by a woman of about four or five and twenty years of age, but it was done, as ſhe ſaid, two years ago, and though ſhe had ſeen the man ſeveral times, yet ſhe never complained till now, ſo that it was ſuppoſed, that becauſe he did *not come at her again*, or to get a little Money, was the chief cauſe and end of the profecution.

There were a great number of Clippers and Coyners Arraigned at this Seſſions, whereof ſeveral were Convicted, others Acquitted: of the former ſort were Mrs *Richardſon* and her Son, a brisk bold young fellow, and pretending himſelf a Dancing-maſter; another woman was Indicted with them, but Acquitted. Mrs. *Richardſon* had brought a Trunk lockt to this other womans houſe, and ſet it obſcurely under the Cellar-ſtairs; in this Trunk there were found the Tools for Clipping; likewiſe at home when ſhe was taken, there were ſome Clippings diſcovered, and ſhe cryed out of a window, and ſaid, *ſhe was undone*; and the Son endeavoured to fly for it, ſo that they were found guilty.

One *Underwood*, and a Wench he kept company with (a very courteous Lady, for at the Bar ſhe boaſted, ſhe never had been unkind to any man in her life) were likewiſe Convicted of High-Treaſon for the like offence, much clipt Money and Clippings, and the neceſſary Implements being found upon them. Both theſe and two former lived near *Pickadilly*, and 'tis ſuppoſed, were all of a gang, or had converſation together; they were firſt diſcovered by means of a Card-match Girl, to whom this *Underwoods* Miſtreſs boaſted, that ſhe could get a Guinney a day by this Myſtery; and told her ſomething of the way, and who held a Correſpondence with them; but this Girl is ſince dead on a ſudden, not without ſuſpition of Poyſon, to prevent her Teſtimony: however, there was enough without her to do their buſineſs, being both found guilty.

Another perſon who drove the ſame Trade alone by himſelf, was alſo found guilty: the matter was proved ſo plainly on him, that there could be no doubt or difficulty made of it.

A perſon living in or near *Grubſtreet*, and his Wife, were likewiſe charged with the ſame Offence: The Evidence for the King made out ſeveral preſumptions againſt them, but there was a multitude of their Neighbours and others that came in to teſtifie as to their Credit, &c. And the Priſoners alledged, the profecution was upon an old grudge, and endeavoured to recriminate upon one of the chief Evidence; it did appear that four years ago, their Houſe had been ſearched on ſuſpition of this Crime of Clipping, and then nothing found that could render them obnoxious to the Law, ſo that after a full and fair Tryal they were acquitted.

Several perſons, as is uſual every Seſſions, were Convicted for ſtealing of ſilver Tankards, and divers for Shop-lifting, the particulars too tedious to relate.

One *Daniel Mackarty*, an *Iriſh-man*, was Tryed and Convicted of Treaſon, as being a Popiſh Prieſt: the manner of his Apprehenſion was thus. A woman in *Charles-ſtreet* being very ſick, this Father officiated with her, ſaid Maſs, and Adminiſtred the Sacrament to her, of which the Nurſe gave notice to ſome honeſt Neighbours, who took out a Warrant and ſeized him in the ſaid ſick womans Chamber, who much interceded and begged that they would not take him away, for if they did, ſhe ſhould be in danger of loſing her Soul; but

but they adviſed her to ſend for a Proteſtant Divine, and take inſtructions from him, and not to truſt ſuch blind Popiſh guides, with their Idolatrous Maſſes, and fooliſh Ceremonies of Extream Unction and groundleſs Abſolutions, where there is neither true Faith or Repentance. The Nurſe teſtified that ſhe had heard the Priſoner ſay Maſs, and exerciſe other parts of the Prieſtly Function. Dr. *Oates* likewiſe was a Witneſs againſt him, that he confeſſed to him that he was a Prieſt when he was brought to his Chamber. In his Pocket when he was taken, there was found a Petition to the *Venetian* Ambaſſador, expreſſed by the name of *Daniel Mackerty* Prieſt, ſetting forth his being in want, and deſiring relief; as likewiſe a Letter in *French* directed to him, and ſignifying likewiſe, that he was a Prieſt; which Papers were read in Court. He had little to ſay for himſelf, but behaved himſelf impudently, calling the Witneſſes ſcurrilous names, &c. Nothing could be made more plain than his Prieſthood, which in truth he ſcarce denyed, and ſo was found guilty, which he ſeemed not at all to regard, being a perſon (as moſt of them are) of a wonderful confidence.

The Petition before-mentioned was in French, and therein it was ſpecified what Order he was of; likewiſe there was another Paper in the ſame Language, purporting to be directions how (if he were taken) he ſhould behave himſelf, what excuſes and pretences he ſhould make, what he ſhould ſay if confronted by Doctor *Oates*, or any other of the Kings Evidence; whereby we may ſee they have Leſſons ſet them in every caſe. He thought to have baffled the woman that gave Evidence againſt him, by asking her what cloaths he had on when ſhe heard him officiate; who anſwered, the ſame he had now, whence he would infer that it could not be, becauſe in ſaying Maſs, they uſe ſuch and ſuch Veſtments; but this was quickly contradicted, for though he had not all his Formalities, which they cannot conveniently always, nor ſafely now eſpecially, carry about with them, yet to ſupply that defect, there was found about him, and now ſhewed in Court, a thing called in their holy *Gibberiſh*, *A Stole*, being a piece of Sattin or Taffata, of near two yards long, and three or four Inches broad, of a kind of deep blew, or almoſt purple colour, which they uſe to fling over their ſhoulders, and that alone ſerves inſtead of all the reſt of their gear. The woman mentioning her hearing him ſay Maſs, was askt how many were preſent, ſhe anſwered, ſhe could not certainly tell, but was ſure there was above threeſcore; and being demanded if ſhe knew any of them, replyed, yes, there were enough of them now about the Court, or in the yard, or words to that effect.

There was a young Gentleman of good note, took a Tryal on the *Friday* touching a Rape charg'd to be committed on the Daughter of one Mrs. a Girl about ten years of age. He was ordered by a Relation to demand Money of this Childs Parents, who kept an Ale-houſe, and they contriv'd, as may be thought, this Stratagem not onely to ſatisfie that Debt, but ſcrew more Money out of him. The Girl told the ſtory that he meddled with her in the Chamber at her Mothers; and her Siſter a wench about ſixteen years of age confirm'd it, by ſaying ſhe came up and ſaw it, and that he gave her two ſhillings to hold her tongue; and Midwives ſwore the Child had had ſome Abuſe. But the Gentleman proved by a Servant-maid, that the eldeſt Daughter went abroad, pickt up a man, brought him home, who went to bed with both her and her Siſter, and began with the leaſt firſt, ſo that then ſhe cry'd out and might receive the prejudice. Twas alſo prov'd, that they ſent for a Compoſition, 60 pound down, and Judgment of an hundred more, and were importunate to have him give them ſo much, and then they would put it up, &c. So that upon the whole matter, the Gentleman was fairly Acquitted from this dam-

damnable Aspersions, and directions given to Prosecute the Mother for keeping a lewd House.

A Woman was Convicted for stealing a Trunk of Lace, valued above 100 l. a Country-woman brought it to Town to sell, the Prisoner invites her to lodge with her, in the night purloins it away by several of her Companions, who came into the Room on frivolous pretences. In the Morning cries out, she had lost her own Muff, and by and by the Trunk was miss'd, and never could be heard of, for which she was Condemned.

Mr. *Thompson* the Printer was admitted to Bail, there being no Indictment against him; so were several of the Apprentices.

There were in all Fifteen burnt in the Hand, and no fewer than Four and twenty that received Sentance of Death, of whom Three Women (one a Clipper) were, by a Jury of Matrons, after they were Attainted found to be quick with Child, so that as to them Execution must be reputed. The Number being so great, the common Bar could not contain them, but several of them were forced to be put into Captain *Richardsons* seat: Many of them much lamented their condition, but the *Irish* Popish Priest was observed to laugh at his going away from Sentance.

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